

List of legal powers

Finally the list below is an indicative list of powers and functions to help you appreciate the wide range of activities covered by Acts of Parliament and Measures or Acts of the National Assembly for Wales. It is a useful reference when you need to know if the community council can act but note, no list can be totally comprehensive.

It is hoped that you find this guide useful and, most importantly, that you enjoy your work as a councillor making a difference in the community that you serve.

Activity	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Annual meeting	Duty to hold	Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 23
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments Duty to consider providing allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied	Small holdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.23
Baths and Washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses	Public Health Act 1936, ss. 221, 222, 223 and 227
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power, as a burial authority, to acquire, provide and maintain Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9 and 10 Parish and Town Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s.1 Local Government Act 1972, s.214
Bus Shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, s.4

Activity	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Bye Laws	Power to provide byelaws for: Pleasure grounds Cycle parks Baths and Washhouses Open spaces and burial grounds	Public Health Act 1875, s.164 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.57(7) Public Health Act 1936, s.223 Open Spaces Act 1906, s.15
Charities	Duties regarding parochial charities	Charities Act 1993, s.79
Christmas Lights	Power to provide to attract visitors	Local Government Act 1972, s.144
Citizens Advice Bureau	Power to support	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2
Closed Churchyards	Powers to maintain	Local Government Act 1972, s.215
Commons and common pastures	Powers in relation to enclosure, regulation and management, and providing common pasture	Inclosure Act 1845 Local Government Act 1894, s.8 Small holdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.34
Community centres	Power to provide and equip community buildings Power to provide buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives	Local Government Act 1972, s.133 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

Activity	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Community meetings	Power to convene Duty to convene	Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraphs 30, 30D and 30E
Community planning	Duty to collaborate with the county/ county borough council in developing and implementing a community strategy for the area	Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, ss.37-47
Community polls	Duty to consider and take action	Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraphs 26A and 29A
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities	Local Government Act 1972, s.144
Co-option of members	Powers to co-opt persons to fill vacancies Duty to advertise	Representation of the People Act 1985, s21 Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, s.116
Crime prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds and ditches	Public Health Act 1936, s.260

Activity	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Entertainment and the arts	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts including festivals and celebrations	Local Government Act 1972, s.145
Gifts	Power to accept	Local Government Act 1972, s.139
Highways	<p>Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridle-ways</p> <p>Power to light roads and public places</p> <p>Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motorcycles</p> <p>Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening</p> <p>Power to provide roadside seats and shelters</p> <p>Power to complain to the highway authority regarding protection of rights of way and roadside wastes</p> <p>Power to provide traffic signs and other notices</p> <p>Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges</p>	<p>Highways Act 1980, ss.43, 50</p> <p>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3</p> <p>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ss.57</p> <p>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1</p> <p>Highways Act 1980, s.130 (6)</p> <p>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ss.72</p> <p>Highways Act 1980, s.96</p>
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment	Trustee Investments Act 1961

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Land	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of land	Local Government Act 1972, ss.124, 126, 127
	Power to accept gifts of land	Local Government Act 1972, s.139
Litter	Provision of receptacles in public places	Litter Act 1983, ss.5.6
Lotteries	Powers to promote	Lotteries and Amusement Act 1976, s.7
Mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Powers to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936, s.198
Newsletters	Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local government	Local Government Act 1972, s.142
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive ditches	Public Health Act 1936, s.260
		Public Health Act 1875, s.164
Open Spaces	Power to acquire land and maintain	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
Property and documents	Powers to direct as to their custody	Local Government Act 1972, s.226
Public buildings and village halls	Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
Public conveniences	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936, s.87

Activity	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Parks, pleasure grounds	Power to acquire land or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them	Public Health Act 1875, s.164 (Local Government Act 1972, Sched.14 para 27) Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890, s.44 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
Recreation	Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities Provision of boating pools	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 Public Health Act 1961, s.54
Town and Country Planning	Right to request the local planning authority for notification of planning applications	Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched.1, para.8
Tourism	Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism	Local Government Act 1972, s.144
Traffic Calming	Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.30
Transport	To spend money on community transport schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26-29
Village Signs	Power to use decorative signs to inform visitors	Local Government Act 1972, s.144
War memorials	Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials	War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s.1; as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s.33

Activity	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Water	Power to use wells, springs or streams for obtaining water therefrom	Public Health Act 1936, s.125
Wellbeing	Power to do anything which the council considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area, without limit on expenditure	Local Government Act 2000, s.2
Youth Representatives	Power to appoint up to two youth representatives (aged 16 to 25) to represent the interests of young people who live, work or receive education or training in the area	Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, ss.118-121